

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments / xi

Editor's Introduction / xiii

Japanese History: A Timeline / xv

Introduction / 1

- 1. Origins and Inspirations: Japanese Literature and Its East Asian Roots / 5**
- 2. The Golden Age: Heian Literature and the Genji Ideal / 17**
- 3. Swords and Solemnity: The Medieval Literary Tradition / 31**
- 4. The Bamboo Curtain: Tokugawa Literature and Culture / 45**
- 5. A Literature of Empire: Complexities of Japanese Modernity / 63**
- 6. Postwar to Postmodern: Japan's Literary Passage through the Late Twentieth Century / 77**

Postscript: Reading Japanese Literature in the Twenty-First Century / 93

Notes / 95

Glossary / 107

Suggestions for Further Reading / 113